

1           1.   (Currently Amended) An electronic device for playing a digital  
2 content file, comprising:

3           a processor configured to process a digital content file;

4           memory;

5           a watermark detector configured to detect the presence of a watermark  
6 signal in the digital content file; and

7           an authentication module configured to access a certificate associated with  
8 and separate from the digital content file and determine from the certificate if the  
9 processor is authorized to process the digital content file in the event that the  
10 watermark detector detects the watermark signal.

11  
12           2.   (Currently Amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 1,  
13 wherein the authentication module is further configured to access the certificate in  
14 a remote location. further comprising a watermark detector configured to detect the  
15 presence of a watermark signal in the digital content file, and wherein the  
16 authentication module is further configured to access the certificate associated  
17 with the digital content file if the watermark detector detects the watermark signal.

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19           3.   (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 2, wherein the  
20 watermark signal is a 1-bit watermark signal.

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22           4.   (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
23           the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
24 digital content file may be played but not copied; and  
25

1 the authentication module is further configured to limit the processor to  
2 playing the digital content file.

3  
4 5. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
5 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
6 digital content file may be not be played after a specified date; and  
7 the authentication module is further configured to prevent the processor  
8 from playing the digital content file after the specified date.

9  
10 6. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
11 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
12 digital content file may be played one time only; and  
13 the authentication module is further configured to limit the processor to  
14 playing the digital content file only one time.

15  
16 7. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
17 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the  
18 digital content file belongs to the public domain; and  
19 the authentication module is further configured to allow the processor to  
20 play and copy the digital content file an unlimited number of times.

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22 8. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
23 digital content file is an audio file.  
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1           9.     (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
2 digital content file is a video file.

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4           10.    (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
5 digital content file is a multimedia file.

6  
7           11.    (Currently Amended) A method for watermarking a digital content  
8 file, comprising:

9               embedding a watermark into the digital content file; and

10              associating the digital content file with a certificate that contains copyright  
11 information about the digital content file and is not a part of the digital content file;  
12 and

13              wherein when the watermark is detected in the digital content file, the  
14 associated certificate ~~will be~~ is accessed and the digital content file ~~will be~~ is  
15 processed according to the copyright information.

16  
17           12.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
18 embedding a watermark into the digital content file further comprises embedding a  
19 1-bit watermark into the digital content file.

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21           13.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising  
22 delivering the digital content file and the associated certificate over a network.  
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1           14.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the delivering  
2 further comprises electronically transmitting the digital content file and the  
3 associated certificate over the network to a network site.

4  
5           15.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein:  
6 the delivering further comprises electronically transmitting the digital  
7 content file and the associated certificate; and  
8 the digital content file and the associated certificate are transmitted  
9 together.

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11          16.    (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein:  
12 the digital content file is delivered to a first party; and  
13 the associated certificate is delivered to a second party.

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15          17.    (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
16 associating a certificate file with a digital content file; and  
17 configuring the certificate file with ~~copyright~~ information about the digital  
18 content file so that when the digital content file is processed, the digital content file  
19 is processed in accordance with the ~~copyright~~ information contained in the  
20 certificate file.

1           **18.**     (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the  
2 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file so  
3 that a user having possession of the digital content file may only process the digital  
4 content file one time.

5  
6           **19.**     (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the  
7 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file so  
8 that a user having possession of the digital content file may not copy the digital  
9 content file.

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11           **20.**     (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the  
12 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file to  
13 indicate the digital content file belongs to the public domain so that the digital  
14 content file may be played or copied an unlimited number of times.

15  
16           **21.**     (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the  
17 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file to  
18 indicate the digital content file may only be processed during a specified time  
19 period.

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21           **22.**     (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital  
22 content file is an audio file.  
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1           23.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital  
2 content file is a video file.

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4           24.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital  
5 content file is a multimedia file.

6  
7           25.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
8           attempting to detect a watermark signal in a digital content file; [[and]]  
9           if the watermark signal is detected, ~~locating~~ attempting to locate a  
10          certificate associated with the digital content file, the certificate including  
11          copyright information about the digital content file; and  
12          if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is located,  
13          processing the digital content file according to the copyright information included  
14          in the certificate.

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16          26.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the  
17          certificate is stored in a remote location relative to the digital content file. further  
18          comprising:

19          ~~if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is located,~~  
20          ~~processing the digital content file according to the copyright information included~~  
21          ~~in the certificate.~~

22  
23          27.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:  
24          if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is not  
25          located, preventing processing of the digital content file.

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2       **28.**     (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising  
3 allowing unlimited processing of the digital content file if the watermark signal is  
4 not detected.

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6       **29.**     (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the watermark  
7 signal further comprises a 1-bit watermark signal.

8  
9       **30.**     (Original) A digital content file stored on one or more computer-  
10 readable media, comprising a watermark that indicates the existence of a certificate  
11 associated with the digital content file, the certificate containing copyright  
12 information about the digital content file.

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14       **31.**     (Currently Amended) The digital content file as recited in claim 30,  
15 wherein the certificate associated with the digital content file is stored remotely  
16 from the digital content file. ~~further comprising information identifying the~~  
17 ~~certificate associated with the digital content file.~~

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19       **32.**     (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, wherein the  
20 watermark is a 1-bit watermark.

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22       **33.**     (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, further  
23 comprising audio content.  
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1           34.    (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, further  
2 comprising video content.

3  
4           35.    (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media  
5 containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer,  
6 perform the following:

7               attempting to detect a watermark in a digital content file;

8               if the watermark is detected, attempting to locate a certificate that is  
9 associated with the digital content file, the certificate containing ~~copyright~~  
10 instructions ~~about the~~ regarding digital content file; [[and]]

11              if the certificate is located, processing the digital content file according to  
12 the ~~copyright~~ instructions; and

13               wherein the watermark only indicates the existence of the certificate.  
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15           36.    (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
16 claim 35 wherein the watermark signal is a 1-bit watermark signal.

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18           37.    (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
19 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
20 locating a certificate further comprises receiving the certificate contemporaneously  
21 with the digital content file.  
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1           **38.**     (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
2 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
3 locating a certificate further comprises receiving the certificate separately from the  
4 digital content file.

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6           **39.**     (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
7 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
8 locating a certificate further comprises locating the certificate on a remote site.

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10          **40.**     (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
11 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the  
12 locating a certificate further comprises locating the certificate on an Internet site.

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14          **41.**     (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
15 claim 35, further comprising processing the digital content file if no watermark is  
16 detected.

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18          **42.**     (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in  
19 claim 35, further comprising preventing processing of the digital content if the  
20 watermark is detected but no certificate is located.

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22          **43.**     (Currently Amended) A propagated data signal, comprising:  
23 digital content; and  
24 a 1-bit watermark embedded in the digital content; and  
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1        wherein the 1-bit watermark indicates the presence of a certificate  
2 associated with the digital content, the certificate containing copyright information  
3 about the digital content and being stored apart from the digital content.  
4

5        44.     (Currently Amended) The propagated data signal as recited in claim  
6 43, further ~~comprises~~ comprising certificate information that identifies a location  
7 of the certificate associated with the digital content.  
8

9        45.     (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43, wherein  
10 the digital content is audio content.  
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12        46.     (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43, wherein  
13 the digital content is video content.  
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15        47.     (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43, wherein  
16 the digital content is multimedia content.  
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